

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 21-A: ELECTIONS
Chapter 7: ELECTION OFFICIALS

§503. ELECTION CLERKS

Election clerks are governed by the following provisions. [1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR).]

1. Qualifications; appointment; compensation. Election clerks must be at least 18 years of age, registered to vote and residents of the municipality, except that, if the municipal officers, after providing timely notice to state and local chairs of political parties of the lack of available election clerks, are unable to appoint a sufficient number of election clerks who are residents of the municipality, the municipal clerk may appoint election clerks who are not residents of the municipality but who are residents of the county and are otherwise qualified to fill the vacancies. The municipal officers of each municipality shall appoint election clerks no later than May 1st of each general election year to serve at each voting place during the time the polls are open and as counters after the polls close. A list of the election clerks appointed under this subsection must be posted at each voting place. Election clerks are entitled to a reasonable compensation as determined by the municipal officers.

[2007, c. 422, §1 (AMD) .]

1-A. Student election clerks.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RP) .]

2. Representation of parties. The municipal officers shall consider the following for appointment as election clerks.

A. The municipal officers shall consider persons nominated by the municipal, county or state committees of the major parties to serve as election clerks. The municipal officers shall appoint at least one election clerk from each of the major parties to serve at each voting place during the time the polls are open. The municipal officers shall also appoint a sufficient number of election clerks to serve as counters after the polls close. The election clerks must be selected so that the number of election clerks from one major party does not exceed the number of election clerks from another major party by more than one. [2007, c. 422, §2 (AMD).]

B. The municipal officers shall appoint at least one election clerk nominated by the municipal committee of a qualified minor party represented on the last general election ballot for each voting place at the committee's request. [1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR).]

C. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the municipal officers may also consider persons who are 17 years of age to serve as student election clerks for a specific election. A student election clerk may perform all the functions of an election clerk as prescribed by this Title. [2003, c. 584, §4 (AMD).]

All nominations for election clerks must be submitted to the municipal officers no later than April 1st of each general election year. If a municipal committee of a major party fails to submit a list of nominees to serve as election clerks, the municipal officers may appoint registered voters enrolled in that party to serve as election clerks.

If the municipal officers are unable to appoint a sufficient number of election clerks as set forth in paragraphs A, B and C, they may appoint any other registered voter, as long as the balance between major political parties is maintained.

[2013, c. 131, §14 (AMD) .]

3. Number appointed to serve each voting place. The municipal officers shall appoint at least 2 election clerks as provided by subsection 2, paragraph A to serve at each voting place during the time the polls are open. If required to do so by subsection 2, paragraph B, they shall also appoint one election clerk to serve at each voting place during the time the polls are open. Additional election clerks may be appointed as needed. In the event of a vacancy in the election clerks appointed under this subsection, the municipal officers shall appoint alternate election clerks who may be called into service.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

4. Number appointed to serve as counters. The municipal officers shall appoint election clerks in the same manner as in subsection 3 to serve as counters after the polls close.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

5. Vacancies. If a sufficient number of election clerks is not available to serve on election day, the municipal clerk or the warden may appoint the necessary number of election clerks to fill the vacancies. When filling a vacancy, the municipal clerk or the warden shall first draw from the list of alternates appointed under subsection 3 and make every attempt to appoint a person with the same enrollment status as the person who vacated the position.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

6. Oath of office. Before assuming the duties of office, election clerks are sworn by the municipal clerk or the warden and the oath is recorded.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

7. Term of office. An election clerk holds office for 2 years from the date of appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualified, except that an election clerk who is appointed to represent a qualified minor party represented on the last general election ballot holds office only for 2 years from the date of appointment.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

8. Duties. Election clerks shall attend the voting places for which they are appointed at each election during the time the polls are open or during the counting of the ballots after the polls close, as required by the terms of their appointment. They are under the direction of the warden and shall assist the warden as requested.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR) .]

9. Application of city charter. This section does not affect a city charter that provides for the election of 2 persons to assist the warden in receiving, sorting and counting ballots. The persons elected under the authority of the charter are considered to be election clerks and each must represent a different major party.

[1995, c. 459, §33 (NEW) .]

10. Training.

[2001, c. 415, §5 (AFF); 2001, c. 415, §2 (RP) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 161, §6 (NEW). 1985, c. 314, (AMD). 1991, c. 399, §2 (AMD). 1991, c. 466, §18 (AMD). 1993, c. 473, §10 (AMD). 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF). 1995, c. 459, §33 (RPR). 1999, c. 450, §14 (AMD). 2001, c. 310, §28 (AMD). 2001, c. 415, §2 (AMD). 2001, c. 415, §5 (AFF). 2003, c. 584, §4 (AMD). 2007, c. 422, §§1, 2 (AMD). 2013, c. 131, §14 (AMD).

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